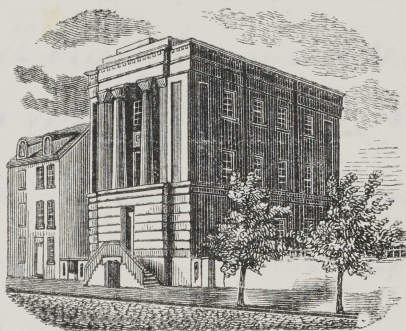


AN ESSAY ON  
*Yellow Fever, and its Origin*

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE



HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE  
OF PENNSYLVANIA,

On the 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, Eighteen Hundred and  
Fifty-six.

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100 \$30,

That which we call "Yellow fever" is a remarkable variety of the "Synocical" type. It is a singular fact also that it has been referred to all kinds of continued fever except the "Mucos".

In the examination of this disease, I shall briefly enquire. What are its symptoms? What is its cause? In what manner is it propagated? Can we prescribe a Specific treatment? And are there any means for its prevention.

'Symptoms' — The disease is divided into 3 Stages, all of which usually obtain, at times however, the patient may recover having suffered but from the First, again I have seen the Second often terminate in Death, even under the most judicious treatment. The accession of the Fever is usually sudden; its vicium being taken with the most violent symptoms, even in the midst of health



in many cases however, we observe precursory signs, such as spontaneous lassitude, loss of memory, and joined to this will be one or more of the following symptoms, pulse feeble - slow - disappearing under the finger or frequent - small, or intermitting, Skin, hot and dry or cold and covered with a clammy moisture features distorted, mournfull air, assumed gaiety, lips pale and livid, tongue red, and dry, or at times, white, moist, and tremulous, general nervousness, palpitation of the Heart, tremour of the limbs &c. — This state may continue for 10 or 12 hours after which it is resolved into the "First stage" of "Yellow fever"

We now have complete prostration intense pain in the Head — over the eyes at the Occiput (as from a blow,) in the bottom of the orbits, strong motion of the Eyes, pain in the neck, back, Loins, and knees At times the attack is ushered in by a chill,

with rigors, succeeded by intense and burning  
fever, the skin is dry, red, and sensitive,  
tremendous congestion of all the membranes  
especially the conjunctival (I have even seen  
it yellow in this stage) The patient is now  
alarmed, he weeps, groans, and entreats assis-  
tance, the tongue on its borders is covered  
with a yellow, or black, deposit. the teeth are  
often coated with the same material.  
He at length complains of pain, and heat,  
in the Epigastrium, which is tense, and  
painful on pressure, burning tructations  
and nausea now appears soon to be followed  
by vomiting (this is provoked by drink)  
with unquenchable thirst - up to this  
time there has been constipation, but  
now abundant alvine discharges indicate  
a crisis in the 'Stage' and the symptoms  
abate.

This period occupies from 1 to 4 days, the



interval between the "First" and "Second stages" is modified by the circumstances of each case it is ordinarily from 12 to 18 hours.

The "Second stage" is the first intensified in its symptoms, with the partial or complete omission of the fever and the addition of the jaundiced skin, suppression of the urine, fetid breath, (which smells like urine) and the delirium.

This stage may last from 24 to 48 hours, and the remission which follows of from 1 to 5 days (in rare cases it is even 2 weeks) during which time the strength returns to a great extent, the appetite is restored, and the thirst intense.

The "Third stage" is that of the "Black vomit," in addition to the black substance thrown up (and passed often times by the rectum) we find a similar material oozing from the Tongue, Eyes &c.

Arms, Vagina, and Urethra, the secretions  
having a putrid character pass off involun-  
tary, flies collect, the face becomes shriveled  
and all signs indicate present dissolu-  
tion, In some the Testids swell, Carbuncles  
malignant. Pustules, and Buboes make  
their appearance, Nature (with now almost  
exhausted) concentrates all her energies into the  
most fearful Scurium, to make one ghastly  
desperate leap - and all is over. There is no  
death so fearful to witness as that from  
'Yellow fever,' the entire duration of an  
attack from this disease is from 4 to 15  
days.

I come now to its origin and  
cause. I believe that the peculiar malarial  
influence, which produces this malady  
is generated on the "West coast of Africa"  
in which place it is found in its most  
complete form (On the arguments to support



this Theory I think I am alone, the poison being generated in the place just mentioned on account of being as all impurities are, indisposed to unite with the "Atmospheric air", passes up into, and forms part of, the "Upper strata" of the "Atmosphere" - The Trade winds in passing from South-East to North-West bring it to our shores, but although it is over us it is still harmless, it is necessary that it should be brought down, the clouds, and storms, furnish this requirement, and wherever it is thus brought down (the temperature permitting) it is capable of deactivating itself, It acts "Symply" or otherwise on the surrounding Air or Malaria and thus produces, as well as spreads the contagion.

In proof of this Theory we see that the Sickness is a migratory one, passing from, and to, given point, we find it also more

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malignant, the nearer we are on its western  
course, to its eastern point of origin, and on  
its return track, the nearer we come to its start-  
ing place, the less marked is it, till it is at  
length lost. Thus we find the disease more  
on the "coast of Africa" than on the "Atlantic  
ocean" more there, than in the "West Indies"  
and perceptibly growing less, and less in violence  
as we pass the Atlantic coast, "Pacific coast" and  
"Pacific Islands", till we at length trace it  
to "Madagascar" and the "East coast of Africa"  
where we may say it is lost. That it is car-  
ried by the air, is I think established. For  
ships sailing from northern ports often  
suffer from "Yellow fever". We must conclude  
it to be propelled in the air by the "Trade winds"  
for ships at sea never take the disease out  
of the trade wind this is also confirmed  
by the uniform direction of the disease cor-  
responding with that of the "Trade" currents



whilst the decrease of the Malaria, from and  
to a given point, proves that point, to be its  
place of origin.

It is I think easy to explain  
why the disease is often found at Gibraltar  
Rio Janeiro and other places, out of the track of  
the Trade winds, we know that there is a  
constant coast current, flowing up and  
down the 'American' and 'African' shores,  
this does the same for the places out of the  
ordinary track, as the Trade winds do for us.

It was never seen North of 45° N. Latitude  
nor south of 35° S. Latitude, it is said never  
to have crossed a chain of Mountains, which  
fact in connection with another that it will  
as it leaves the valley ~~it will~~ rapidly pass up  
the Mountain, infecting all this side and even  
the top, while even the other side will remain  
untouched, A British fortress on the top of  
a hill 700 feet high always suffers when the

disease is passing off from the Cities of the  
coast below, in this case, <sup>Committed to mention</sup> it is only when the  
wind is in the proper direction, and then  
only for a few days, prove that it is carried by  
the "Atmosphere", and that its tendency is to the  
Upper strata. It is never seen off the Sea coast,  
or large Rivers, showing that it is favoured by  
circumstances.

We know that it is not carried  
by the "Atmospheric Air", because that Gas  
free itself from all impurities, the upper  
strata is the point to which it passes, and the  
proof is that it will pass from one City over others,  
and attack, another hundreds of miles distant  
the Cities passed having all the prerequisites  
to maintain the contagion, for in other  
seasons, they are affected, and the ones now  
suffering, are passed untouched. If it is  
carried in the "Atmospheric Air", all things else  
being equal the results must be similar.



In proof, that it is brought down by clouds, and  
storms, every observer will testify (although it  
has never been seen to be raised till by myself that  
I know of) but all know that during the pre-  
sence of the 'Yellow fever' it rains or storms  
every day (or nearly so) the rains occur in the  
afternoon, the disease is worst to men a p  
after a rain, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of those who die, - die  
at night, almost all who take the disease,  
feel its first influence after a storm,  
if we have 3, or 4 days, clear weather the  
Malady always abates, and if it continues for  
2 or 3 weeks, it will entirely disappear.

The poison once down infects the Malaria  
exhalings from decomposition, but if the  
supply of poison be cut off we find the 'Mal-  
aria' seeking its own level high in the skies,  
having no connection with influences which  
render it destructive, Malaria acts as a  
center to which the poison when down, adheres

for some time. Thus it is a promoter  
but not a cause of this disease. If a  
cause, why does not the disease follow  
"Malarious" districts all things being equal?  
The marshy sea shores of "Coromandel" and  
"Malabar" in "India" the coast of "Siam"  
and the "Irrawaddy" of "Burmah" and the  
"Low lands" of the "Nile", if my theory be un-  
true, surely ought to suffer, for they all have  
the prerequisites which medical Philoso-  
phers have pronounced to cause the disease.

Now come to the manner  
of its Propagation, I answer that it  
is through the medium of this vitiated  
"Atmosphere" and by no other means.  
All persons contain within their  
own systems the seeds of the disease,  
alike, during the prevalence of an "Epidem-  
ic" this predisposition, only waits a circum-  
stance favouring its development.



We are told that it is contagious, in proof they  
say that the nurses and friends of those who  
have "Yellow fever" often take the disease, and  
see, I answer true, but what is more cap-  
able of awaking the seeds of disease in the  
system, (by destroying its natural fortifi-  
cation) than excitement, fear, sympathy, dread,  
horror, and a shock, as severe as must be the  
sight of death in this its most horrid of  
forms, Ships cannot bring it from afar,  
for every reason, cases of "Yellow fever" come  
from infected ports to those of our own  
immediate vicinity, still we do not suffer,  
the fuel must be in a place, before it can be  
ignited, and in all cases, unless the previous  
condition has obtained, the disease in spite  
of importations can never become "Epidemic"  
some few might indeed die, from the exhal-  
ations from the dead bodies, (frightened perhaps  
into a paroxysm) but hear it must of —

necessity &c, if it were like "Small Pox", one  
case might breed a plague, but we find  
that this disease, requires for its develop-  
ment, its own peculiar conditions.

Does it require a "Specific  
Treatment" as many Physicians have said?  
I answer most unequivocally, No. Specific  
Treatment may do well enough for a man  
who has no brain, or an "Allopath", who regards  
the stomach as a mere crible and the Human body  
as a mere complicated machine, but I must  
confess I was chagrined when I saw men  
calling themselves "Homoeopathic" physicians  
laying down rules and "infallible" medicines  
for the treatment of "Yellow fever", their rules and  
drugs may have been "Homoeopathic" in their instance  
but can they say it will be so again, no rule can  
be laid down, symptoms alone must decide  
on the remedy, each case of the same Epidemic  
and in the same locality is peculiar to itself, varying



with the amount and quality of the poison in action, the Age, Habits, Temperament, and Idiosyncrasy, of the patient, &c. are two visitations of this disease in the same locality in all respects alike. Thus the "Fever" of 53 in "New Orleans" differed from that of 55 in the same City the "Fever" of 52 in "Charleston" was unlike that of 54. Again different localities present varieties for the same period, as the fever of 55 in "New Orleans" could not be treated with the same remedies that were successful in "Norfolk" for the same year. Seeing this the "Specific theory" is worse than Madness, it is a legitimate child of Quackery, & therefore to all its errors and must be subject to the same humiliation of defeat.

I at length ask for the means (if any) of preventing this terrible scourge? There is no direct means of preventing it although much can be done to modify it.

Keep our Cities free from "Malaria", since  
we see that it promotes the spread of the  
poison, by being organized, thus of itself  
becoming as potent as the original element.

It has been advised for all families to keep  
fires in their dwellings in the Summer time,  
this precaution has been tried and it will  
not keep away disease, but it will I doubt  
not act well as a modifier of the "Malaria",  
which is a supporter of the poison instead  
of the poison itself, as they who advised this  
plan supposed, they expected therefore too much  
from the drying process in the Houses. I think  
it will modify, but not prevent the disease.  
The Quarantine has been found a useless  
in warding off diseases of this character,  
it has therefore been abandoned, by the expe-  
rienced. Prophylactic may be advised by some,  
and I think with reason, I think that the  
Sung best suited to the treatment of that —



Particular visitation of the Sore, would  
be usefull as a Prophylactic, I can conceive  
how it can act, antidoting the poison in  
the system, the seeds of the Sore, by  
meeting the predisposition to the Malady.  
Prophylactics cannot act but under the Law  
'Sanctio' and, unless the Sore corresponds to  
the Sore or its predisposition, it is not  
a Remedy, and we are inserting the genius  
of Homoeopathy to call it such.

This is a Sore of  
which I have seen much, and am satis-  
fied that divested of crutches, in the shape  
of other mens experience, and armed with  
our Materis Medica and its weapons,  
we must conquer, our Law is perfect, the  
Law did I say, God Law it is as immutable  
as its creator, as complete, as it is infinite,  
as as part as the Universe of the Eternal,  
why then, do we not confide in it. It is the

shame of our Science in the South that we  
cannot cure "Yellow fever" without "Snake-tooth"  
and "Mustard", It can be done, is done, and  
our Law is only deviated from by they who do  
not understand it, Birds of weak wing,  
and weaker eyes, who are dazzled by the beams  
of the great Law, then look back to the Earth  
again, their heads become dizzy, and after most  
uneasily fluttering they fall, to the great  
benefit of the Profession, The cure of Yellow  
fever by the present generation of Homeopaths  
will be the greatest Medical triumph on record,  
it will then be complete, When we recall to  
mind, after so many dark Ages, wherein  
the huge overshadowing train of "Empiricism",  
swept every star from out the Medical firmament,  
how the bright, and blissful Law of cure struck  
through the black, and settled, night of Igno-  
rance, and tyranny, shaking with irresistible  
might the rottenness of Systems, It is not to



be marveled, that a sovereign, and reviving, joy,  
should rush, into the bosom of every true  
Homoeopath, and that the sweet odor of the  
dawning 'Medical Millennium' should in-  
fuse our souls with freedom, and delight.

